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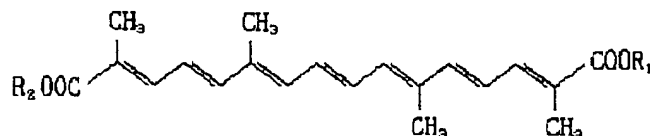
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TITLE : CARCINOGENESIS SUPPRESSING
AGENT



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain a carcinogenesis suppressing agent causing little side actions by using a specific derivative of a carotenoid compound separated from natural resources such as saffron.

SOLUTION: This agent contains a crocetin disugar ester of formula (R₁ and R₂ are each gentiobiose or glucose) as an active component. The compound of the formula can be produced e.g. by separating crocetin (8,8'-diapocarotene diacid which is a compound of the formula wherein R₁ and R₂ are H) from saffron, etc., and converting the crocetin into digentiobiose ester (crocin), monoglucose monogentiobiose ester or diglucose ester. This carcinogenesis suppressing agent exists in a hot-water extract of the stigma of saffron being widely used as crude drug and food and exhibits the suppressing effect at a low concentration. Crocetin digentiobiose ester is especially effective among the above crocetin disugar esters.

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